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CONSERVATION AREA

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THE AREA

William W. Powers Conservation Area is on Chicago's far southeast side, off highways 94, 90, and 41. The main park entrance is at 123rd Street and Avenue O.

A 160-acre tract was acquired by the state in 1947 and became known as the Wolf Lake Conservation Area. Other acquisitions have now increased the area to 580 acres, of which 419 acres are water.

THE LAKE

Wolf Lake is a natural lake, but many areas were dredged in years past. It is separated into five different sections by dikes left following the dredging project.

The maximum depth is about 18 feet. Fishermen are advised to use caution when wading because of numerous drop-offs.

HISTORY

Wolf Lake straddles the Illinois and Indiana State line between 120th and 134th streets. The park road on the east side runs parallel to the Indiana line. It is not known how the area originally became known as Wolf Lake. Some local residents claimed Wolf was an early settler or an Indian chief; others said that years ago wolves were abundant around the lake and that the lake itself was in the shape of a wolf. The Chicago Historical Society was unable to verify any of these possibilities.

In 1965, the Legislature approved changing the name of the conservation area to honor the memory of William W. Powers, a former state legislator, who was well-known for his deep interest in the promotion of recreation for the residents of his district. Representative Power's generosity also included providing annual Christmas parties for children, baskets of food, and fuel for less fortunate ones during the depression years.

OCUMENTS

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FACILITIES

Picnicking: The main picnic area is located south of the main entrance and parallels Avenue O. An ample quantity of tables and stoves are provided in shady spots beneath the many willow and cottonwood trees. A shelter is available on a first come basis.

Fishing: Wolf Lake contains largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie, bullhead, carp, and yellow perch. About six miles of shoreline is available to bank fishermen.

Boating: A two-lane launching ramp is north of the main entrance. Ten horsepower motors or less are allowed.

Winter Sports: Ice skating, ice fishing and ice boating are permitted if the ice is thick enough.

Concession: Open during the warm months of the year, the concession stand is conveniently located in the middle of the picnic area near a modern toilet facility building and drinking fountains. Rental boats are provided to the rear of the concession stand.

Not Permitted: Camping or swimming.

Park Hours: Sunrise to sunset.

Hunting: The area is used for waterfowl hunting during the fall of the year. Hunting must be done from authorized blinds, which are allocated on a two year basis at a public drawing during the summer of even numbered years. Unoccupied blinds are available on a daily basis. Consult the park ranger for information concerning hunting regulations and blind site locations.

Please: This area is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container. No plants or parts of any tree may be removed or damaged. If you need help or have a question, contact the ranger.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

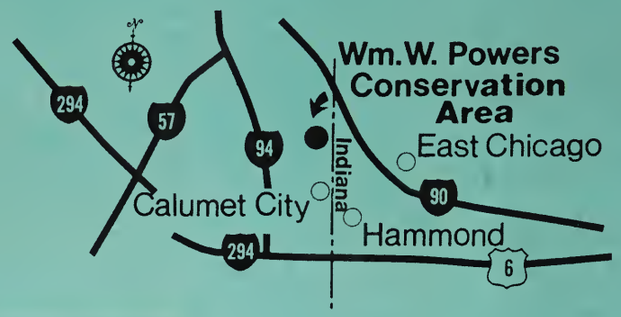
Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, 12800 Avenue O, Chicago, Illinois, 60633; phone 312/646-3270. For more information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Division, State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.

Park Maps



INDIANA

Foot Bridge

Wolf Creek

Wolf Creek

Wolf Creek

Picnic Area

Woods

To Wolf Lake Overlook

Boat Launch
Parking Area

Foot Bridge

Indian Creek
Boat Docks

Picnic
Area

Picnic Area

Avenue O

130th St.

Parking
Ranger's
Res.

Picnic Area

Ranger's Office

Parking Area

Concession & Boat Rental
Parking Areas

Illinois Department of Conservation

life and land together

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